

N.O.W. News

Official publication of the *Numismatists Of Wisconsin*



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Numismatists of Wisconsin is incorporated in the state of Wisconsin as a non-stock nonprofit tax exempt corporation.

Contributions are tax deductible. The objective of Numismatists of Wisconsin is to encourage and promote interest in numismatics, to cultivate friendly relations between Wisconsin collectors of numismatic items and Wisconsin coin clubs, and to encourage, educate, and assist new numismatic hobbyists. All resources of the organization shall be used to further these objectives. Dues are \$10 per year and entitles participants to N.O.W. News, this quarterly publication. Among the services offered are coin authentication, a Speaker's Bureau, show calendar coordination, and guidelines to assist coin clubs hosting the annual N.O.W. convention. Numismatists of Wisconsin holds Life Memberships in the American Numismatic Association and Central States Numismatic Society.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMER 2015

From the Editor.....	Page 1
NOW NEWS and NOTES.....	Pages 2-10
Club News and Meetings.....	Pages 11,12
Armenia Issues Coin for 1915 Genocide Centennial (<i>feature article by Lean Saryan</i>).....	Page 13
The Eddie Eagle Gunsafe Medal (<i>feature article by Dreux Watermalen</i>).....	Pages 15,16
Alaska Reindeer Service Bill of Sale (<i>feature article by Don Kocken</i>).....	Pages 18-21
Thirty-Five Years – Ten Commemoratives (<i>feature article by Jerry Binsfeld</i>).....	Pages 23,24
ANA News.....	Pages 25-27
How Much for a Capped Bust Type Set? (<i>feature article by Mark Benvenuto</i>).....	Pages 29-31
Aluminum Cent follow-up news.....	Page 33,34
What's New at the U.S. Mint?.....	Pages 35,36
Bureau of Engraving and Printing.....	Page 37
BOOKS !	Page 38
NOW Organization / Membership Application.....	Page 40
SHOW CALENDAR.....	Inside Back Cover

ON THE COVER: We have an 1853 -with arrows- Seated Dime that has been engraved on the reverse with the name EMELINE. SNYDER. MONDOVI. WIS. Was this a love token given to Miss Snyder by a suitor with a set of engraving tools? Or perhaps the industrious Miss Snyder simply procured a set of punches and hammered out her name for posterity? More likely a skilled jeweler performed the engraving. Whatever the case, the individual was handy with a letter punch. Consider the letters following the curvature of the dime almost perfectly. Note the score lines that the engraver followed. The single letter punches were placed deftly on the score lines when struck. It appears the force used to hammer the punches was uniform, as each character is similar in depth. The letter spacing is also mostly uniform. Consider as well that all of this was performed on an 18mm dime! As excellent as it was done, it is not perfect, indicating that it is not die struck. Also, the repeated use of certain letter punches, the E's and N's in the name for instance, gives away that this was hand punched and most likely a unique item. Efforts to trace Miss Snyder in Mondovi, WI turned up empty, however I did find an Emeline Snyder with the exact same spelling in the 1850 Federal Census of Manitowoc County Wisconsin, listed as age 24, born in NY. I challenge any inquisitive NOW member to follow the trail and find out more about our mysterious cover girl! Thanks to Tom Casper for submitting this beauty!

From the Editor

Hello Friends! Happy summer! The sun is high in the sky, the birds have left, the mosquitos are biting, the weeds keep growing, the flowers are wilting, the heat is unbearable, the humidity is stifling, and the sunburn is excruciating. Can't wait for fall!! ...said the pessimist.

Hello Friends! Happy summer! The sun is high in the sky, the birds are singing, the fish are biting, the leaves whisper in the cool breeze, the days are long, and the landscape is beautiful. Wish summer would last forever!! ...said the optimist.

Do you lean toward the sunburn of pessimism, or are you sitting in the cool breeze of optimism? Whichever direction you follow this summer, you will have a whopping issue of NOW NEWS as a companion, whether you commiserate or celebrate.

Starting with Now News and Notes, we cover the events of our recent annual NOW show in picturesque Iola, WI. This big issue continues and contains five, yes five original articles written by your fellow members. Leon Saryan tells us about a dark time in Armenian history through a new coin issue. Dreux Watermolen and Eddie Eagle remind us of the importance of gun safety. First time contributor Don Kocken shares some very interesting Alaskan history. Jerry Binsfeld begins a series of census articles where he explores prices and trends over the past 35 years, and Mark Benvenuto explores the Capped Bust type set. Add to that our regular features, ANA News, US Mint news, BOOKS!, Club News, Show Calendar and more, and you have one hot issue of NOW NEWS for your summer reading pleasure.

A few words about the NOW show on May 15-16. I want to express my gratitude to all of you who stopped by the NOW booth to chat. I had the opportunity to recruit a half dozen new members in the process. What a pleasure it was to visit with old numismatic friends - and make new ones. Our booth was combined with show co-hosts, the Wisconsin Valley Coin Club and also with the ANA booth, ever presently occupied by ANA recruiters extraordinaire, John and Nancy Wilson. I also had the privilege to talk to the one and only Chet Krause. We enjoyed a discussion about publishing and printing, then and now.

The mystery dinner was outstanding, as you will read further in this issue, and capped off Friday's show activities with a special evening. Saturday was busy with bourse activity and NOW meetings and educational talks. I had one more stop to make before I left Iola. There was a prime parking spot in front of the Crystal Café that my car fit into nicely, and a freshly baked Door County Cherry Pie with my name on it just behind the counter. "Box it up", I said to the gentleman waiter, "and do you happen to have a to-go fork?"

Enjoy summer! *-Jeff Reichenberger*



Chet and Jeff





N.O.W. NEWS AND NOTES

NOW Board of Governors Meeting Report

Your NOW Board of Governors met on May 16th at the annual NOW Show, hosted by the Wisconsin Valley Coin Club, in Iola, WI. Present were Vice President Fred Borgmann, Governors Clifford Mishler, George Alafouzos, Bob Van Ryzin, Bill Brandimore, Lee Hartz, Tom Casper, Ken Muelling, and Jeff Reichenberger.



Agenda topics discussed included:

The NOW show for 2016 which will be held in conjunction with, and hosted by, the South Shore Coin Club and Milwaukee Numismatic Society, March 31, April 1&2, 2016. Arrangements are being made for a 'Mystery Dinner' to take place on the ironically appropriate evening of All Fool's Day!! Stay tuned for more details!

Membership stands strong at 262. All members are encouraged to recruit potential new members! Please share your latest issue of NOW NEWS and tell them the cost per year is ONLY \$10 !!

Our NOW website domain name has been renewed. Please visit our site often for up-to-date info and archived excellent articles written by your fellow members!!! www.numismatistsofwisconsin.com

Constitution and Bylaws amendments. The Board voted unanimously to approve the amendments recommended to the General Membership. These amendments were posted on the website for all to review as instructed in your spring issue of NOW NEWS, and also available in hard copy through the mail, or immediately after this board meeting.

Nominations for the 2016 – 2018 board are open. There are no new nominations at present. Three current board members agreed to their renewal of nomination for the next term. Please see the call for nominations further in Now News and Notes.

The next meeting of the Board will take place on October 4th in Milwaukee at the MNS show at Serb Hall.

Your Board of Governors meets at least 3 times a year at various venues throughout Wisconsin, usually in conjunction with a show. The General Membership meeting is held yearly at the N.O.W. show. Please contact any of the board members with your ideas or comments. N.O.W. is YOUR club, the more input from all members, the better the club will be for all of us and our hobby.

2014 Writer's Contest Award Results

A total of sixty-four 2014 Writer's Award ballots were counted and tabulated by Governor Ken Muelling and submitted at the Board of Governors meeting on May 16th. The results are as follows:

Spring Issue

	<u>Votes</u>
Fred Borgmann.....Wauwatosa's Misleading Badge	11
Jeff Reichenberger.....Do You Actively Buy and Sell Counterfeit Coins?	22
Tom Casper.....Mitchell's Mansion	11

Summer Issue

Tom Casper.....When Milwaukee Honored Lindbergh	13
Mark Benvenuto.....Getting Back to Cents	9
Bill Brandimore.....1935 and 1935A \$1 Silver Certificates	17

Fall Issue

Dreux Watermolen.....Some Electrifying Tokens	19
Tom Casper.....Pinkey's Penny	9
Mark Benvenuto.....Beyond the Nickel Mania: Back to Basics	10
Fred Borgmann.....The Fredrick A. Lorenz Medal	9

Winter Issue

George Alafouzos.....Drafts from the Past	8
Dreux Watermolen.....The Middle of Most Everywhere	12
Mark Benvenuto.....The Allure of Old Copper	6
Jeff Reichenberger.....What do You Know about the War of 1812?	29

Congratulations to all of our authors!! Once again, take notice that EVERY article on the ballot received a substantial number of votes, a testament to our interesting and diverse club!

Special Thanks to our generous Award Sponsors, the South Shore Coin Club sponsors the \$100 First Place award, Wisconsin Coin Expos LLC sponsors the \$50 Second Place award, and Milwaukee Numismatic Society sponsors the \$25 Third Place award.

PLEASE send us YOUR article about your favorite numismatic subject. It DOES NOT have to relate to Wisconsin. If you have questions or concerns about submitting an article, don't hesitate to contact me at: jkreichenberger@hotmail.com. Phone: 920-410-2997. Address: P.O.Box 3572 Oshkosh, WI 54903

General Membership Meeting Report

The annual meeting of the NOW General Membership was held at 2pm on Saturday, May 16th in the meeting room at the Lola Show. There were 12 members present. NOW Vice President Fred Borgmann discussed the financial report, which was approved and the future NOW shows in Milwaukee (2016) and Madison (2017). Discussion then turned to the Constitution and Bylaws recommended changes to which the membership approved. The new amended Constitution will be posted on the NOW website. The meeting adjourned at 2:29pm. The next General Membership meeting will be held at 2pm on Saturday, April 2nd at the annual NOW show in Milwaukee, hosted by the South Shore Coin Club.

Call for Board Nominations

As stated in the NOW Constitution and Bylaws, it is time to call for nominations for board members. All NOW members in good standing, who have been a member for a minimum of one year, are eligible. Persons may not nominate themselves. To submit a nomination please contact any current NOW board member.

SHOW REPORTS

Milwaukee - South Shore Coin Club

March 19, 20, 21, 2015. The show was a success. Of the 37 dealers that were in attendance, everyone was doing a brisk business. The dealers were pleased with the new venue at the Crowne Plaza, with ample parking for everyone and the aisles were wide enough to accommodate scooters and wheelchairs. The general public attendance for the 3 days was just over 800 with the scouts and their parents adding to it. Our next show will be at the Crowne Plaza March 31, April 1 and April 2, 2016. –
Submitted by Joe Bartoszewicz

35th MNS Annual Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic held in Milwaukee at the South Shore venue.

MNS is grateful for the cooperation of the South Shore Coin Club, which arranged for the meeting room at the Crowne Plaza in conjunction with their excellent three-day show.

Thirty-six boy scouts successfully completed their coin collecting merit badges at the 35th annual MNS Boy Scout Coin Collecting merit badge clinic held in Milwaukee March 21.

The clinic, sponsored and organized by the Milwaukee Numismatic Society since 1980, was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel near the Milwaukee Airport, in conjunction with the three-day South Shore Coin Club annual show.

The four-hour Saturday morning program provides boys aged 11 to 14 with a comprehensive overview of numismatics. Topics covered include coin and paper money manufacture, coin basics and terminology, storing a coin collection, coin identification, mints and mint marks, designer's initials, the state quarter program, coin grading, paper currency basics, and an introduction to federal banking

system. At the conclusion of the program, all scouts attend the coin show bourse and have a chance to view and purchase coins and currency offered for sale by dealers.

Each scout was presented with a goody bag filled with collectable coins, tokens, paper currency, and numismatic publications, all donated to MNS by dealers and various organizations. Special gifts were distributed for answering difficult questions. This year, donations were received from the Greater Milwaukee Coin (Brookfield, WI), American Coin (Racine, WI), Bob's OK Coins (Milwaukee), Bob's Coins and Derzor Coins (both West Allis, WI). MNS is extremely grateful to all supporters.

The merit badge clinic was inaugurated 35 years ago by veteran MNS members Lee Hartz and Tom Casper, and substantially enhanced by Bruce Benoit. Principal speaker and clinic coordinator for 2015 was MNS past-president Leon Saryan. The success of the clinic is the result of a great team effort supported by many volunteers who have our sincere thanks. – *Submitted by Leon Saryan.*



Madison - Madison Coin Club

March 22, 2015. Our Show was a success even though we were down a few dealers because of a big show in Minneapolis. We want to thank James Essence of Jim's coins for being the Bourse Chairman, Josh Moran of Civitas Galleries for printing the fliers, Tom Galway for being the General Chairman, and all the members who staffed the registration table, and especially those who helped the dealers enter and exit the Show. I heard some great comments from the dealers about this. – *Submitted by Tom Galway.*

Appleton - Fox Valley Coin Club

March 29, 2015. The Fox Valley Coin Club held their 60th annual show at the Darboy Club and it was once again very successful. We heard positive comments from both dealers and customers alike. There was a steady flow of people from the beginning to the end including several young people who were very enthusiastic about the show. We once again had generous donations from several dealers that were appreciated by both the Fox Valley Coin Club and the lucky winners. Next year's show will be on Palm Sunday again which is Sunday, March 20, 2016. The show will be at the Darboy Club and open from 9:00 until 3:00. – *Submitted by Jerry Roberts.*

Chicago International Coin Fair

April 9-12, 2015. The show opened to the public on Friday morning, with about 100 tables occupying the floor. Attendance appeared to be down from previous years, but dealers that were in attendance carried a wide number of items, ranging from high-end certified coins that are among the finest known of their respective types as well as buckets with cheap coins for beginners and youngsters. Several auction companies (including several from Europe) were in attendance accepting consignments for future auctions, and NGC was also there accepting submissions.

Rumor circulating was that the show for next year has not yet been scheduled, and it is still up in the air if the show will be organized (the same applies to the Chicago Paper Money Expo, held in the same room a few weeks before CICF). It would be a shame if it does not, as that leaves only the New York International Show as a dedicated world coin show held in the United States. While a large number of world coins are generally available at the larger shows, a dedicated show provides the opportunity for collectors to meet other specialists, and to attend lectures and seminars about obscure areas of numismatics that may not be as well-known as other collecting fields. —*Coin Update April 15, 2015*

Wausau - Wisconsin Valley Coin Club

April 19, 2015. What a great show it was! We owe it all to an outstanding member turnout and hard work. Attendance was great (280+). We signed many up for next year's mailing list. Raffle sales were good. Kid activities were a hit. Our welcome table was welcoming. Door prizes winners were happy. Dealers enjoyed our hospitality spread. Most said that they had a good show. A super success. Many members bought items of interest and showed them at our April 21st meeting.

—Submitted by Terence Kofko



Wausau bourse – Photo by Jeff Muzynowski

Central States Numismatic Society – Schaumburg, IL



CSNS bourse

April 22-25, 2015. "High end coins grabbed headlines, especially at the auction, but too few buyers were seen on the bourse floor of the 76th anniversary convention. As a result, some dealers said it was a poor coin show and others said it went well." — Connor Falk, *Numismatic News*

Green Bay - Nicolet Coin Club

May 3, 2015. The show was busy from opening to close. Aisles were packed. Everything was selling, currency, bullion, slabs, collector coins. People were buying! I had a few dealers tell me this was their best show ever. Our fall show will be October 25th – Packer bye week! — Submitted by Roger Bohn.

Sheboygan - Sheboygan Coin Club May 9, 2015. Attendees enjoyed forty dealer tables at this year's spring show held at the Laker's Ice arena. Dealers made some deals and the public were buying a little bit of everything. Our next show will be August 29, 2015 at the same location.

Iola - Numismatists Of Wisconsin 55th Anniversary Coin Show

The Numismatists of Wisconsin 55th anniversary event hosted in Iola on May 15-16, 2015, marked the sixth time the statewide collector organization, founded there in 1960, had assembled there in the past 16 years. The first event was hosted in 2000 on the occasion of the organization's 40th anniversary. Subsequent gatherings were hosted in 2002, 2005, 2008 and 2010. All events were hosted at the Activity Center exhibition building of the Iola Old Car Show on grounds adjacent to the Krause Publications offices.



This year's renewal was co-hosted by the Wisconsin Valley Coin Club of Wausau and NOW's Iola Friends. Members of the WVCC provided the manpower for setup in advance of the show and staffing of the registration table during the event. About a dozen members committed the better part of a day in travelling the 50 miles from Wausau to spend the better part of the day setting up the tables and chairs, distributing the showcases, and generally getting the exhibit hall in order for its Friday opening.

Attendance appeared to be in keeping with that experienced at other coin shows in the Midwest and around the country over the past six to eight months. Overall attendance at about 450 was down perhaps 25% from the levels achieved at the earlier events. While Friday's attendance and activity appeared to be quite solid, Saturday attendance disappointingly appeared to be only relatively equivalent to that enjoyed on Friday, with an activity level that was certainly somewhat more sporadic as well.



All attendees received a commemorative elongated cent souvenir of their attendance at the event, created by enthusiast and purveyor Ray Dillard from Flint, Michigan, who was in attendance with his son-in-law Greg Weisgerber, rolling out the design on coins offered up by visitors wishing to have something personal created. The design recalled the "Coin Collecting Foundation Stones" of Wisconsin, which were established in the 1930's by the coin clubs in Madison, Milwaukee and Racine, and in Iola with the 1952 publishing of the first edition of "Numismatic News" by Chet Krause.

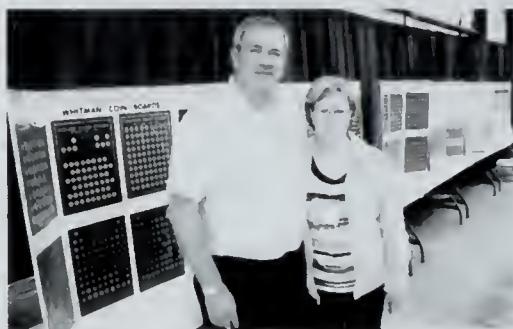
The 55 table bourse was occupied by 43 dealers offering a wide range of materials from coins of biblical times to the latest silver and gold bullion offerings, along with U.S. and world paper money, medals and tokens, and related collectible offerings. While most of the tabled dealers were drawn from within the state of Wisconsin, the neighboring states of Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois were also represented on the floor.



On the educational side of the ledger attendees had the opportunity to attend talks presented by William Brandimore, and John and Nancy Wilson. Brandimore's topic was "Evolution of the Silver Certificate, 1928-1975," and that of the Wilsons' was "A Wisconsin City Set of Civil War Tokens." There were also a half dozen collector exhibits presented by Fred Borgmann, Bill Brandimore, George Cuhaj, Clifford Mishler, and the Wilsons. These exhibits displayed a wide range of offerings from a complete set of Buffalo Nickel proofs to a Wisconsin "Black Charter" National Bank note from Green Bay, and the 1930's Depression Scrip issue of Horicon. In addition, collector and coin board enthusiast Don Kocken exhibited a portion of his collection of early coin collecting boards encompassing five tables at the north end of the building. —Submitted by Clifford Mishler, show organizer



Fred Borgmann stands next to his exhibit of Wisconsin residents' military medals of WWI and WWII.



Don Kocken with his wife Marie, stand in front of his coin board display.



George Cuhaj conducts the Boy Scout Merit Badge Clinic



Bill Brandmore teaches 'The Evolution of the Silver Certificate'



John and Nancy Wilson present 'A Wisconsin City Set of Civil War Tokens'

Wisconsin Valley Coin Club Co-Hosts 2015 NOW Show

On Wednesday, May 13, WVCC members BILL BRANDIMORE, TERRY KAFKA, GEORGE ALAFOUZES, MIKE ROLLING, ED FLANDERS, LEROY EGSTAD, KEN GURALSKI, KEN MUELLING and TOM SCARE caravanned to Iola, WI to set up the bourse and meeting rooms for the NOW Annual Coin Show at the Old Car Show Grounds.. Our host, Cliff Mishler, supplied the plan and the food, and we supplied the labor assisted by Joel Edler and Fred Borgmann. (As much as we old guys could.) Many members attended the show on Friday, May 15, and Saturday and worked the welcome table. —Submitted by Terry Kafka.



Ken Gursalski checks in attendees.



WVCC members at the registration table. Ken Muelling, Nicole Muelling, Mike Rolling, Charles Klapstein, along with Nancy Wilson and Clifford Mishler.



THREE OLD CRANKS: Ray Dillard, his old Cain Ralling Press, and Terry Kofka.

NOW Mystery Dinner a great success

The famous NOW Mystery Dinner is a tradition originated in the early years of NOW by the late Richard 'Dick' Anderson. The tradition holds that the NOW show organizer(s) arrange a secret destination dinner for a group of participants who pay a donation to NOW in advance. This year, held on Friday evening, all that was revealed prior to departure was that the event would be hosted on a historical site. That site, as it turned out, was not 5 or 10 or 20 miles away as in previous Mystery Dinners, but was held a mile and a half up the road; hang a right, left, right and you are smack dab in the middle of downtown Iola! The 'Iola Mills' is a Wisconsin Historical Society Site that has been

carefully and perseveringly restored to its old world beauty by Tom Fucik, who purchased it and started restoration in 1996. Now nearly 20 years in the process, Tom says it is a constant work



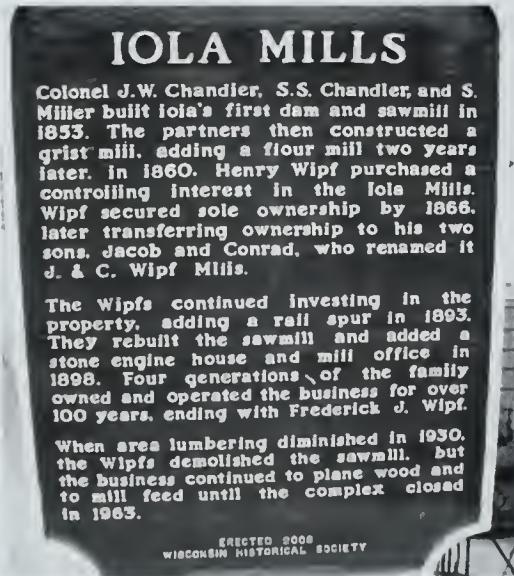
Tom Fucik



in progress. He gave a short talk about the trials of preserving the old mill and gave a brief history of the site. The Grist Mill is now used to serve as a restaurant, and to host parties, dances, and the like. If not for Tom and his love of history and hard work, the mill would likely have been razed. But now Iola enjoys the beauty and charm of a Historic Site in the heart of town.

Chet Krause was in attendance and spoke briefly about the NOW organizations' beginnings. Pointing out that it was a small group of numismatists who had the idea to organize NOW and that he was able to facilitate them and happy to be part of that group of founding members.

All in all, the ambience, delicious food, and company of 29 attendees made the Mystery Dinner an Historic success!



Chet Krause



Chet, Tom, and Cliff



Happy people awaiting a feast

Club News

Madison Coin Club

The Program: We will have another edition of our newest annual tradition of "New Members Night" as we usually get an influx of new members signing up at the Show. We will all introduce ourselves and mention our collecting interests or specialties. Please bring a recent purchase or find, especially if you found something at our Show for "Show & Tell." Speaking of the Show, I forgot to thank Carol Jones Barreau in the last Newsletter for contacting all the area TV and radio stations to publicize the Show.

New Members: We would like to welcome Jim & Anna Bakken, Kirk & Linda Wronski, Craig Heibel, Jim Klein, Randy Mitmoen, Blaine Neupert, Tex A. Urfer, Zeshan Usman, Jonah Braun and John Krueger, of Collector's Choice Coins in Sun Prairie and Portage. Welcome all, we look forward to your ideas to make the Club better.

A special and exciting announcement: John Krueger is willing to run a Madison Coin Club Fall Show! The proposed date will be Sunday, November 1, 2015.

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

MNS again had a bus trip to Central States. Fifteen members attended the trip and had varying degrees of success on the bourse. May 23rd was the CSNS Educational Seminar on paper money in Milwaukee at the Clarion Airport Hotel. 23 members attended this wonderful seminar and learned much and enjoyed the day.

MNS members win exhibit awards at Central States! Bruce Bartelt, Darrell Luedtke, Nancy Wilson, John Wilson, David Hunsicker, Jason Paonessa, and Sandy Casper all took home awards. CONGRATS!!

Wisconsin Valley Coin Club

The final results are in! May 5, 2015, was our Annual Grading Challenge. In third place Bill Brandimore. Second was George Alafouzos. The new WVCC Grading Champion is....Ken Muelling! (See photo) There was some controversy. George claims he would have beaten both Floyd Mayweather and Ken Muelling if he hadn't injured his shoulder. Bill also filed a protest with AARPC. (American Association of Retired Police Chiefs.) But the results stand: Ken is our Chief Grader. (Cheap shot? Chief shot?) We learned a lot about grading. Thanks especially to Professor Petts for the question items. Tuesday, May 19, George Alafouzos taught us about grading Lincoln cents. Thanks George! Our next meeting is June 16th, our Annual Picnic is July 21. Save the date!

Send your Club News to: jkreichenberger@hotmail.com



COIN CLUB MEETINGS

BARRON COUNTY COIN CLUB

Meets 7:00 p.m. the 2nd Thursday at the School Administration Bldg., 700 Augusta St., Rice Lake. Contact Barron County Coin Club, P.O. Box 362, Rice Lake, WI 54868.

CHIPPEWA VALLEY COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:00 on the 1st Thursday of each month in the basement of Parks Rec. Bldg., 1300 1st Ave. in Eau Claire. E-mail S4701.com/coinclub or PO Box 2140 Eau Claire, WI 54702.

ELGIN IL COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:30 1st Wednesday at Elgin Moose Fam.Ctr. 92S S. McLean Blvd. Elgin, IL 60123. Contact Don Cerny, PO Box 651, S. Elgin, IL 60177. Ph. 847-888-1449.

FISHBOWL WOODEN NICKEL COIN CLUB

Meets the 3rd Thursday (April-October); at the Siren Senior Center, 23943 State Road 3S, Siren, 6:30 traders; 7:00 business meeting (Nov.-March) at 24136 State Road 3S/70, Siren. Contact Gary Schauls, 2702 150th St., Luck, WI 54853-3811. Phone 715-472-2002.

FOND DU LAC COIN CLUB

Meets the 1st Tuesday (May thru Sept.) at the Senior Center East 2nd Street in Fond du Lac. Contact Fond du Lac Coin Club, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54903.

FOX VALLEY COIN CLUB

Meets at 6:30 the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at Good Will – Community Entrance, 1800 Appleton Road, Menasha. Corner of HWYs 47 and 10.

INTNL BANK NOTE SOCIETY – MIDWEST CHAPTER

Meets at 1:00 the 2nd Saturday each month at North Shore Library, 6800 North Port Washington Road in Glendale. www.mcfls.org/northshorelibrary.

KENOSHA COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:30 on the 1st Thursday of each month (except July & August) at 3030 39th Ave, Kenosha. Contact: Jerry Binsfeld 262-657-4653.

KETTLE MORAINA COIN & STAMP CLUB

Meets at 7:30 on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Silverbrook Middle School, 120 N. Silverbrook Drive in West Bend. Youth meeting at 6:30. Contact: Dave Hunsicker 262-338-6064.

LAKE COUNTY COIN CLUB

Meets 7:00 the 1st Tues. each month at the Gurnee Police Facility. Contact LCCC, POBox 94, Gurnee, IL, 60031-0094, lakecountycointclub@gmail.com

LAKELAND COIN & STAMP CLUB

Meets at 6:45 the first and third Thursday of each month at Lakeland Senior Center, Woodruff, WI.

MADISON COIN CLUB

The club tries to meet at 7:00 pm on the 1st or 2nd Monday or Tuesday of each month at the Alicia Ashman Branch of the Madison Public Library, 733 N. High Point Road. Contact Tom Galway. Phone 608-238-1722.

MANITOWOC COIN CLUB

No regular monthly meetings. An annual coin show is held in February. Contact Al Hrudka 920-775-4979.

MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Meets at 7:00 on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Mayfair Mall Community Room, 2500 N. Mayfair Road in Wauwatosa (use #2 entrance, east side of mall). Contact www.milwaukeenumismaticsociety.com.

NICOLET COIN CLUB

Meets at 6:30 on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at the Bay Family Restaurant corner of Military and 9th St. in G. Bay. Contact Roger Bohn: 920-819-7294, boneyard7@yahoo.com

RACINE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Meets at 7:00 on the 2nd Thursday at Castlewood Restaurant, 281S Wisconsin St., Sturtevant. Contact Bill Spencer 262-637-7766. (no July or Aug. mtg).

ROCKFORD AREA COIN CLUB

Meets 6:30 Thursday at North Suburban Women's Club, 6320 N. 2nd St., Loves Park, www.exonumia.com/RACC.htm. Contact: Rockford Area Coin Club, c/o Darrell Schultz, P.O.Box 294, Cherry Valley, IL 61016.

SHEBOYGAN COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:00 the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at Maple Lanes, 3107 S. Business Dr., in Sheboygan. Contact Sheboygan Coin Club, PO Box 907, Sheboygan, WI 53082.

SOUTH SHORE COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of month at St. Roman's Parish Office, 1710 W. Bolivar Ave. Milw. Cntct: Steven Jendusa 414-364-3772. www.sscmke.org.

WAUKESHA COIN CLUB

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday of month at the Waukesha Salvation Army at 44S Madison St., Waukesha. Contact Forrest Schumacher, 2300 Avalon Drive, Waukesha, WI 53186. Ph: 262-S42-S990. www.waukeshaco-inclub.com.

WISCONSIN VALLEY COIN CLUB

Meets at 6:30 on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at Schofield Coin & Hobby, 754 Grand Ave., Schofield, WI 54476. (June, July, Aug. mtg 3rd Tue.) Contact Thad Streeter S002 Tanya St. Schofield, WI 54478 Ph.715-574-2777.



Armenia Issues Coin for 1915 Genocide Centennial

- By Leon Saryan #0100L

The Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia has just issued a 100-dram denominated silver coin dedicated to the centennial of the 1915 Genocide of the Armenian people, according to an announcement from the bank dated February 27. The coin depicts a collage of several memorial monuments that have been erected around the world.

Without doubt, this new coin ranks as one of the most historically significant numismatic releases of 2015. The Armenian Genocide was planned and executed by the government of Ottoman Turkey, under the cover of World War I. When it was over, 1.5 million peaceful Armenian civilians living in Turkey, as well as hundreds of thousands of Greeks and Assyrians, had been exterminated through massacre, forced deportation, starvation and disease.

The obverse gives the denomination "100 dram" and legends "Armenian Genocide" and (bilingually) "Republic of Armenia." The memorials depicted on the obverse include the Monument to the Grieving Mother (Izhevsk, Russia), the Monument to the Composer Komitas (Paris), cross-stone monuments at Holy Etchmiadzin, Armenia, and Glendale, California, and the pylons of the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial Complex, situated on a hill overlooking Yerevan, Armenia's capital.

The reverse presents additional monuments, including a statue of Armenian resistance fighters (Ujan, Armenia), a part of a monument in the form of an eagle (Aleppo), a portion of a memorial plaque depicting an Armenian woman (Sao Paulo), a cross-stone monument (Antwerp), and the pylons and spire at Tsitsernakaberd with inscriptions "Genocide of Armenians" (in Armenian) and "1915-2015."

Viewed side by side, the obverse and reverse form the complete monument of the Tsitsernakaberd Complex. The stark design and finish on this coin convey the somber aspect of this tragedy.

The new coin has a diameter of 50 mm, weighs 67.2 grams of 925 fine silver, and is struck in antique finish with a plain edge. It was designed by artists Souren Simonyan and Aram Oroutyan. The mintage of 1000 coins was produced under contract for the Central Bank of Armenia by the Lithuanian Mint.

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Eddie Eagle™

The Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Medal

By Dreux J. Watermolen #1755

We live in a nation of gun owners. Approximately half of all U.S. households own more than 200 million firearms. Amidst the seemingly endless controversies surrounding the regulation of these firearms, many parents worry that a child could come in contact with a gun in the absence of adequate parental supervision (like at a friend's or neighbor's house). Unfortunately, concerns regarding basic gun safety and responsibility often get overshadowed in the raucous debates that invoke concepts like constitutional rights, self-defense, and intrusive government regulations. Nonetheless, gun safety programs have been developed as successful accident prevention strategies, and one of these programs even offers a medal that may interest numismatists.

The Program

The Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program helps parents and community leaders teach children in grades pre-K through third about gun safety. The program emphasizes important steps for children to take if they encounter a gun. Four simple rules are presented by the program's mascot, Eddie Eagle, in an easy-to-remember format:

STOP!
Don't Touch.
Leave the Area.
Tell an Adult.

An inter-disciplinary task force of education, safety, and law enforcement experts developed the program in 1988, and the National Rifle Association has sponsored it since. Program materials, in English and Spanish, include instructor guides, age-appropriate student workbooks, an animated DVD, safety brochures and posters, and student reward stickers. An Eddie Eagle mascot costume (available to law enforcement agencies) provides an entertaining way to enhance the program. Any adult can teach the Eddie Eagle program. Schools, daycare centers, libraries, hospitals, and law enforcement agencies can receive grant funding to defray program costs. Eddie Eagle can be incorporated into existing school curriculum or taught in one- to five-day formats.

Although sponsored by the NRA, the program makes no value judgments about guns and no firearms are used in the program. It is strictly a safety program. The Eddie Eagle mascot is never shown touching a firearm, and the program prohibits the use of Eddie Eagle mascots in places where weapons are present.

Since its inception, more than 26,000 teachers and law enforcement officers have used the program to reach more than 26 million children in all 50 states. The National Sheriffs' Association, the American Legion, the Police Athletic League, and the Association of American Educators have endorsed the program. In 1996, the National Safety Council recognized the program for efforts to "promote safety and health, save lives, lessen injury and reduce economic loss." A 2001 study published in the *Journal of Emergency Nursing Online* named Eddie Eagle the best of more than 80 gun safety programs evaluated. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, fatal firearm accidents in kindergarten through third grade have been reduced by over 80% since Eddie Eagle's debut. Accident prevention programs are thought to be a significant factor in that decline.

The Gun Safety Medal

Beginning in 2009 and for several years, the Eddie Eagle program materials included a "coin" that could be used to promote the program or be presented to participants as a reward or reminder. The aluminum medal measures 40 mm in diameter. Its obverse includes a drawing of the Eddie Eagle Mascot encircled by "EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE® PROGRAM / WWW.NRAHQ.ORG/SAFETY/EDDIE". The reverse features the program theme: "STOP! / DON'T TOUCH. / LEAVE THE AREA. / TELL AN ADULT." encircled by "EDDIE EAGLE SAYS: IF YOU SEE A GUN / 800-231-0752".



Current catalogs that list program materials do not include the medal, but as recently as 2013, you could purchase packets of 25 for \$5.00. I obtained my example for free at a community event in summer 2014.

Conclusion

Just as Smokey Bear (fire), Mr. Yuk (household poisons), Reddy Kilowatt (electricity), and McGruff the Crime Dog (neighborhood crime) are intended to help children develop important life skills, Eddie Eagle teaches young people to keep themselves safe around guns. The simple, four-point message highlighted on the program's medal encourages children to not play with firearms. The medal also makes a nice addition to an exonumia collection.

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ALASKA REINDEER SERVICE - BILL OF SALE

by Donald Kocken #2133

On a recent trip to California, my wife Marie and I stopped in the historical part of old downtown Kingman, Arizona. We purchased an Alaska Reindeer Service Bill of Sale. We brought it home, researched it, and found an interesting connection relating to a Wisconsinite.

The Bill of Sale is from Shaktoolik, Alaska. Shaktoolik is located on the east shore of Norton Sound. It is 125 miles east of Nome, in the Bering Straits, across from Siberia, Russia. The population in 1922 was 222 and then it declined to just 60 in 1926. The 2010 census recorded a population of 251. According to the Alaska Dept. of Community and Economic Development, Shaktoolik was the first and southernmost Maletiut Eskimo settlement on Norton Sound, occupied as early as 1839. In the 1850's the Eskimos would barter their artwork, hides, and meat to sailors passing by, for tools, flour, coffee, and liquor.



Sheldon Jackson ca. 1895

In the early 1890's Sheldon Jackson, a missionary and political leader, mistakenly believed the Eskimos of Western Alaska were facing starvation. With help from his lobbying, in 1893 Congress approved \$6000.00 (followed by larger sums) to purchase reindeer from Siberia to be delivered to Alaska for the indigenous people to use as food, clothing, and barter. To do this, Jackson started moving reindeer to Alaska on board the United States Revenue Cutter

Ship, the *Bear*, piloted by Captain Michael Healy. The total number of reindeer imported into Alaska from 1892 to 1902 was one thousand two hundred eighty.



Jackson (third from right) on board the USS Bear

Jackson realized that the Eskimos needed to be educated on the complexities of herding reindeer so he set out to find and recruit 'reindeer men'. He found a man of Norwegian descent who lived in Wisconsin, named William Kjellmann. (Jackson himself had lived in Wisconsin and Minnesota around the time of the Civil War) They raised donated funds to go to Finnmark, Norway and managed to sign sixteen Saami herders to three-year contracts to teach reindeer herding to the Alaska natives. (The Saami are the only indigenous people of Scandinavia, recognized for their inherent skills in fur trading, sheep herding, coastal fishing, and nomadic reindeer herding.) They arrived in New York on May 12, 1894 and then spent the next few months traveling by rail to Seattle. Kjellmann and the Saami herders arrived at the Reindeer Station near Teller, Alaska on the coast of the Seward Peninsula on July 29, 1894.



Saami Reindeer Herders at the Teller Reindeer Station.

By 1905 there were an estimated 10,000 reindeer in Alaska. In 1907 the formation of the U.S. Reindeer Service came into existence to manage the herds. In order to get more reindeer into the hands of Alaska Natives, the herds were broken up and smaller reindeer stations were created in distant villages. The Natives embraced their roles in learning the reindeer herding trade and started their own village herding associations. Instead of going through some government or mission sponsored apprenticeship program to acquire a herd, Native Alaskans could now simply purchase reindeer from other herders for about \$10.00 each.



Eskimo apprentices with their reindeer.*

Alaska Natives believe that reindeer are an intricate part of their lives. As native herder Cudluck Oquilluk explained; "the deer help us very well. The deer is just like money. We all say to the government, thank you, because he bring us deer in Alaska for the Eskimos."

Form No. 8-926.
 (Make 5 copies. One each for the Commissioner of Education, the District Superintendent, the Station Records, the Seller, and the Buyer.)

ALASKA REINDEER SERVICE.
BILL OF SALE.

Received of Philip Kivoruk at Shartwok, ALASKA, Apr 4, 1923
 from Phil Kivoruk to Tom for one female reindeer in the Snow R. Co. herd.
 by Alexander K. (Person selling deer.)
 I agree to keep the above deer with the herd at Snow R. Co. and will not remove them or dispose of them, by sale or otherwise, without the consent of both the Local Superintendent and the District Superintendent of Schools.
Philip Kivoruk (Person buying deer.)
 With this understanding the sale is approved.
 Old mark Phil Kivoruk, Local Superintendent.
 New mark Alexander K., District Superintendent.

6-1251

The full copy of the Bill of Sale reads as follows:

Form No. 8-925. (Make 5 copies. One each for the Commissioner of Education, the District Superintendent, the Station Records, the Seller, and the Buyer.)

Alaska Reindeer Service Bill of Sale, Shaktoolik, Alaska, dated April 4, 1923. Received of Philip Kiorluk, Iron Bed. Valued to \$10.00, for one fawn female reindeer in Shak. R. Co. Person selling deer was Alexander K. Also stated – I agree to keep the above deer with the herd at Shak. R. Co. and will not remove them or dispose of them, by sale or otherwise, without the consent of both the Local Superintendent and the District Superintendent of Schools. Signed by person buying deer, Philip Kiorluk. With this Understanding the sale is approved. Signed by an Old mark. Signed by M. S. Ivanoff, Local Superintendent. Signed by a New mark, Signed by Jean Dupertuis, District Superintendent.

I spoke to a person at the State Reindeer Service Department in Shaktoolik, Alaska last year. It was very hard to get connected on the phone and to hear what they were saying. From what I could understand, the natives of Shaktoolik formed the 'Shaktoolik Native Corporation' as part of the Alaska Native Regional Corporation which was established in 1971 by the U.S. Congress to help administer financial and land rights of Alaska's Natives.

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Fascinating story! Thanks to Don for submitting it! For more Alaska themed numismatics, see the BOOK featured on page 38 of this issue! -Editor

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A Thirty-five Year Follow-up on the Prices of Ten Commemoratives

by Jerry Binsfeld # 00911

The following commemoratives are encountered quite often in the midwest and most likely some of these are found in collections of NOW members. The chart below shows mintage numbers and prices as listed in the Coin Dealers Newsletter in December, 1979 and in December, 2014 for the ten examples in both MS60 and MS65 grades. This is followed by the percent of increase or decrease for the 35 year time period.

Commemorative	MS-60		% of increase (+) or decrease (-)	MS-65		% of increase (+) or decrease (-)
	1979	2014		1979	2014	
1892 Columbian Exposition (950,000)	\$22.	\$22.	-	\$110.	\$325.	+195%
1951 Carver Washington type (110,018)	\$10.	\$16.75	+67.5	\$11.	\$50.	+354%
1936 Elgin, Illinois Centennial (20,015)	\$190.	\$170.	-10.5%	\$460.	\$200.	-56.5%
1918 Illinois Centennial Lincoln (100,058)	\$80.	\$120.	+50%	\$225.	\$340.	+51%
1946 Iowa (100,057)	\$75.	\$84.	+12%	\$175.	\$95.	-45.7%
1923S Monroe Doctrine Centennial (274,077)	\$50.	\$65.	+30%	\$175.	\$1200.	+585%
1920 Pilgrim Tercentenary (152,112)	\$60.	\$80.	+33%	\$225.	\$170.	-24.4%
1925 Stone Mountain Memorial (1,314,760)	\$80.	\$55.	-31%	\$90.	\$180.	+100%
Booker T. Washington type (1,000,546)	\$10.	\$17.	+70%	\$12.	\$40.	+233%
1936 Wisconsin Territory Centennial (25,015)	\$150.	\$165.	+10%	\$450.	\$185.	-58%
Average			+22.1%			+133.4%

Looking at the prices and the percent of change in the MS-60 column, 7 showed a positive gain, 2 negative, and one stayed the same for an overall average increase of 22.1%. In the MS-65 column, 6 showed a positive gain, and 4 showed the prices declining for an overall average increase of 133.4% Booker T. Washington, Columbian Exposition and Stone Mountain all had gains even with their high mintage numbers (range of 950,000 to 1,314,700). One might ask why? Many collectors and dealers alike believe that high mintage (common) means low potential for price increases. In other words not many common commemoratives in mint state grade were saved.

It should be pointed out that coins, like most collectibles, have their peaks and valleys when it comes to prices. In the past 35 years there has been quite a few price swings and in 2014 prices have gone down.

In a subsequent NOW article we will look at your uncle's investment and compare his purchase price and sell price for 10 low mintage high grade commemoratives and see if his MS-65 grade purchases out-performed his MS-60 grade purchases for the same thirty-five year time period. Were most or all of the low mintage commemoratives saved in high grade? If so, perhaps price increases may not be that dramatic. Be sure and check it out.



ANA NEWS



ANA awards \$62,000+ in Summer Seminar scholarships

The American Numismatic Association has awarded \$62,810 in scholarship funds and financial aid for the upcoming Summer Seminar, held June 20 – July 2 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on the campus of Colorado College. Scholarships for Young Numismatists totaled \$37,560, with 17 YNs receiving full scholarships and another 9 students receiving partial scholarships. Adult scholarships through the Robert Lecce Advanced Scholarship Program totaled \$21,500, with 12 full and 12 partial scholarships awarded. In addition, the Colorado-Wyoming Numismatic Association Scholarship Program awarded one full and two partial scholarships to attend the Summer Seminar. An additional \$1,600 in financial assistance was also awarded. Members wishing to support these scholarship programs are encouraged to make a donation online at Money.org/donate, or contact Donna Nunez at 719-482-9811, email donate@money.org. All donations are tax-deductible.

Attendance strong during National Coin Week Open House

The American Numismatic Association welcomed nearly 400 visitors to an open house on April 25 at the Edward C. Rochette Money Museum in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The event was held as part of the 2015 National Coin Week.

This year's theme, "Building Tomorrows: Inspiration and innovation at World's Fairs" celebrated the history of these great events and the 100th anniversary of the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. This year was the 92nd annual National Coin Week. "National Coin Week was created to promote our hobby in the community, and the attendance at this year's open house was a great way to accomplish this goal," said Andrew Dickes, Collection Manager at the Money Museum. "Hopefully we sparked an interest in some of the many children who attended."

Attendees received free, all-day admission to the Money Museum, currently exhibiting Treasures of the Deep, which tells a story of the world's greatest shipwrecks; The History of Money, which chronicles the vast history of money used throughout the world; and the Harry W. Bass Jr. Gallery, which features some of the rarest United States coins ever struck. ANA Members have access to view the museum's [virtual exhibits on Money.org](#).

Every year during the third full week of April, the ANA, collectors, and coin clubs across the country celebrate National Coin Week by letting others know about the joys of collecting and studying coins and other forms of money. The 2016 National Coin Week will be held April 17-23.

From your NOW NEWS Editor: National Coin Week is a chance for all of us to share the joy of our hobby with others. If you, individually, or your club has participated in any National Coin Week activities, please let us know so we may print it in NOW NEWS. I have had the privilege to hold a 'mini coin seminar' annually for my wife's second grade class, and this year I addressed my 8 year old daughter's class as well. Below is the story of this year's event as I sent it to the ANA, who published it on their website blog.

How to become the best collector in the world *by Jeff Reichenberger #1933*

10 simple step-by-step instructions:

- 1) Contact the ANA for educational materials and fun give-away stuff related to National Coin Week.
 - 2) Visit the U.S. Mint booth at ANA conventions for similar fun coin related free items.
 - 3) Procure a stack of Lincoln cent folders and a few rolls of recently minted cents.
 - 4) Contact a neighborhood elementary school or two and offer to talk about coins to students.
 - 5) Prepare a half hour discussion about the history of coins (Be sure to have many different varieties to pass around. This eases the silence and blank stares when you fumble your words or get too deep into die preparation, etc.)
 - 6) Pass out the cent folders.
 - 7) Pass out the new coins, and unleash the bucket of cents you've saved for decades.
 - 8) Watch the unbridled delight in their faces as you help them search and fill the folders.
 - 9) Pass out the trinkets from the ANA and Mint.
 - 10) Feel the genuine gratitude and excitement when the students collectively yell 'THANK YOU' and put their new treasures in their backpacks.
-

The bell rang and the kids went to lunch. I packed my stuff and was out the door in about an hour and a half. Then came the most wonderful Thank You cards. Hand made from about fifty second graders.

Among examples from Mrs. Diedrich's class at Carl Traeger Elementary School, Carter writes; "Thank you for coming in and showing us coins in the past. It was awesome what they look like." Conner says, "I really liked looking in the microscope!" Emmy said, "Thank you for coming to my class to talk about coins. You are the best! Everybody loved the presentation and they think you're amazing and their right!" (Now who among us would not feel good about that kind of praise?!)

The reviews from Emmeline Cook Elementary School, under the direction of teachers Mrs. Reichenberger and Mrs. Lotten were equally flattering. Says Katherine, "Thank you so much for coming in. I loved making the coin collection. I love working on it at night after school." Jayden writes, "Dear Mr. Reichenberger, Thank you so very much for teaching us about coins, I'm working on my collection every night before bed." Maria had this to say, "I am really glad you came. Thank you for the coin collection. You are a great numismatist, from Super Happy Maria!" And if nearly fifty letters of thanks

hadn't bolstered my ego and rattled my emotions enough, young Christian's words firmly planted me at a new level of numismatic prominence, "Dear Mr. Reichenberger. You are a numismatist coin collector and you are the best collector in the world!"

There you have it. Documented testimony!

So, if you are ever interested in being 'amazing'. If you ever aspire to be a 'great numismatist'. If you've ever dreamed of being 'the best collector in the world'. I suggest you follow the above instructions. You have nothing to risk, your outlay is minimal, and your reward will be immeasurable. A greater numismatic reward would be hard to imagine.



Mrs. Reichenberger & Mrs. Lotten's 2nd grade class

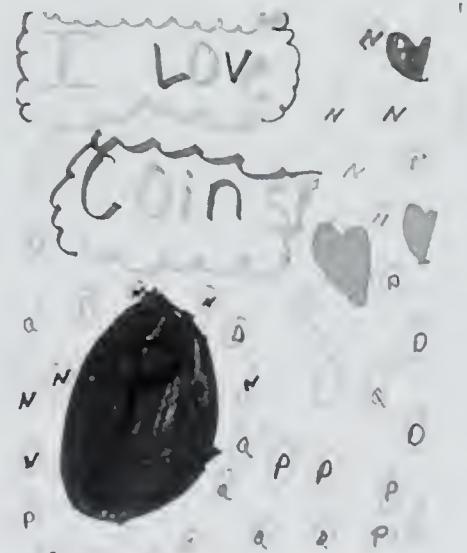


Mrs. Diedrich's 2nd grade class



Your editor trying to instruct the finer points of crumming cents into maddeningly tight holes!

Photos by Mrs. Diedrich and Mrs. Reichenberger.



The artwork of 2nd grade student Brooke.

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How Much For A Capped Bust Type Set? *by Mark Benvenuto #2089*

Many of us have found some amazing series to collect when it comes to United States coins, and are proud of what we have been able to put together without spending a fortune. There are some tremendous silver dollars, half dollars, and even modern bullion coins, as well as choice commemoratives, or even great smaller denomination sets. But despite that, or perhaps because of it, there may not be that many of us who look closely at the Capped Bust series. The perception is that these will always be expensive silver, in part because the mintages are not as high as those of more recent series, and in part because there have been some times when silver prices rose significantly, and plenty of silver coins hit the melting pot (making these even less common still). Let's see if this is fact or fiction. Just what sort of type set can a person make from the Capped Bust coins?

Half Dime



The smallest of the Capped Bust design are the little silver disks called the half dimes. Issued before the advent of the nickel five-cent pieces, the half dime denomination is generally considered the oldest in US federal coinage history, since a few were made in 1792. The Capped Bust design had only a few years on this denomination, from 1829 – 1837. Mr. Yeoman's "Guide Book of

United States Coins" tells that Mr. William Kneass did the design work; and every year but two saw over 1 million produced – and even the two low dates saw close to a million coins produced.

Since few people today try to assemble full sets of the Capped Bust half dimes, their prices are generally all close, regardless of the date or mintage. A VF-20 specimen will cost about \$125, and can still be a good looking coin. An MS-60 example will run about \$400.

Dime



The Capped Bust dimes have a longer date run than their smaller siblings, from 1809 to 1837, with some missing years in the mix there. This design is credited to Mr. John Reich. The first year in the series with a rather hefty mintage is 1820, with 942,587 to its total. If the 1 million mark is some sort of magic number, it was broken the next year, in 1821.

Three more years also broke that barrier – the 1827, the 1835, and the 1836. These common dates currently command prices such as \$100 in VF-20, and \$1K in MS-60. The much less common dates in the series, such as the 1809 and the 1811, do cost considerably more.

Quarter



The Capped Bust quarters are generally broken into two sections, those from 1815 – 1828 (again with some missing years in there), and those with a slightly smaller diameter, minted from 1831 – 1838. Once again Mr. Reich is credited with the design, but there are no records that give credit for who was in charge of the lean outputs that occurred every year until 1835.

Because of this long string of sparse production, there are plenty of these Capped Bust pieces that are screamingly expensive. The 1835 is by far the most common of the series, with 1.9 million to its original tally. Today a VF-20 specimen costs about \$200. But even for what gets called the common dates, an MS-60 example will run \$2K. It seems that we have found the first of the Capped Bust coins that remains hitched to some high prices, in just about any grade.



Half Dollar



The Capped Bust half dollars span from 1807 all the way to 1839, with varieties galore within the series. Even the edge got changed in this denomination. Up until 1836 the edge of these halves is lettered. From 1836 onward the edge changes to the reeding that many collectors consider the standard for silver coins.

Interestingly, the Capped Bust fifty-cent pieces are as common as the quarters are rare. Only the 1807 and the 1815 go below 1 million coins, and the 1807 isn't by too much. Admittedly, that 1815 is a rare bird, but just about all the other dates qualify as common. In 1819 the Mint passed the 2 million mark for these big, silver coins, and surpassed 3 million in 1824. It was 1826 that saw the 4 million mark hurdled, followed immediately by the 5 million mark in 1827. And yes, there are even more common dates than that.



This wealth of common dates throughout the series are each available for about \$125 as a VF-20 coin. And importantly, even when these Capped Bust half dollars have seen some wear, they still possess some eye appeal.

What happens if we go to MS-60 with the Capped Bust halves? Well, the price does rise to \$1,200 - \$1,300, but that is hardly outrageous for such a good example of a large, early silver piece.

Silver Dollar?

Don't we all just wish it were so? The silver dollar denomination was dormant from 1803 until the advent of the Seated Liberty design, which is the work of Mr. Christian Gobrecht. Anything that a person can claim is a Capped Bust dollar is a trial, and pattern, or maybe just someone's fantasy. But wow, wouldn't it be fun to claim to own one?

Overall?

All things considered, assembling a type set of Capped Bust silver is really not as expensive as we might think. Yes, the quarter is going to be a rough one. But that gets counterbalanced, in a way, by the prices of the halves. And the two smaller denominations appear to have quite a bit to offer as well. As with many series, a type set can serve as an end in itself, or as the start point for something bigger. Enjoy putting together one of your own!

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9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

Kenosha Union Club, 3030 39th Ave.,
free admission and parking

*Kenosha Holiday Coin Show
Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

Kenosha Union Club, 3030 39th Ave.,
free admission and parking

*Racine Numismatic Society's
Coin Show
Sunday, February 28, 2016
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

Roma Lodge,
7130 Spring St. Racine, Wisconsin
free admission and parking

*Remember, it's only half
as much fun
without you!*



California federal judge rules against government in 1974-D aluminum cent case *—Coin World, Steve Roach, 4/3/15*



An aluminum 1974-D Lincoln experimental cent is at the center of a legal battle between two men and the government.

A federal judge in California has ruled that two men can continue their quest to own and potentially sell a 1974-D Lincoln aluminum cent. The court held that it is plausible that the coin could have left the Denver Mint legally.

The ruling continues a year-long legal battle between Randall Lawrence and Michael McConnell and the government. Lawrence is the son of Harry Edmond Lawrence. After a career at the Denver Mint, predominantly in the assistant superintendent's position, the senior Lawrence retired as assistant superintendent in 1980. He died the same year. The contested 1974-D Lincoln aluminum cent was among items Randall Lawrence inherited from his father.

In September 2013, McConnell, a coin dealer in La Jolla, Calif., purchased the 1974-D aluminum cent from Randall Lawrence and the coin was set to be a highlight of Heritage's 2014 Central States Numismatic Society auction, but is withdrawn after the government took steps to seize the coin. The piece has been graded Mint State 63 by Professional Coin Grading Service.

As Coin World's Paul Gilkes reported in 2014, although there is an absence of Mint records on the production of aluminum Lincoln cents at the Denver Mint, the die setter for the testing, Benito Martinez, claims to have struck between 10 and 12 1974-D aluminum cents. These were struck one at a time, on planchets with upset rims that were supplied by the Philadelphia Mint.

Martinez told *Coin World* that he struck the 1974-D aluminum cents with regular production dies under the supervision of Harry Bobay, a Denver Mint production foreman.

Although more than a million 1974 Lincoln aluminum cents were struck at the Philadelphia Mint and a small number handed out to members and staff of the House and Senate Banking Committees to support the new composition, no Denver Mint aluminum cents were known until this piece surfaced.

When Congress decided to not adopt aluminum as a composition for circulating coins, the U.S. Mint melted down nearly all of the examples, although Philadelphia Mint examples are known.

In their filing, Lawrence and McConnell state that the Denver Mint celebrated Harry Lawrence's retirement by giving him a clock engraved with his name, with the hours represented by examples of 90 percent silver coins struck at the Denver Mint. Further, they contend that the Mint commemorated his retirement by "allowing him to keep certain error coins struck in Denver which he had accumulated, and one specimen of the 1974-D aluminum cent."

A matter of plausibility

A motion for summary judgment allows a court to dismiss a case for "failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted." While the court noted that it is unlawful for any person without proper authority to remove property from the U.S. Mint, the court noted that there was a possibility that Harry Lawrence lawfully obtained the item.

On March 26, Judge William Q. Hayes issued an opinion where he denied the government's motion to dismiss the complaint, stating "it is plausible that a Mint official, with proper authority and in an authorized manner, allowed Harry Lawrence to keep the 1974-D aluminum cent. Drawing reasonable inferences, it is plausible that Harry Lawrence lawfully obtained possession of the aluminum cent, giving Plaintiffs superior claim of title to the aluminum cent."

The two men contend that because the government gave the coin to Harry Lawrence and that Randall Lawrence had undisturbed control of the coin for the past 34 years, this creates a presumption of title and requires the recognition of ownership rights of the coin.

The government challenges this, believing that the men have not, and cannot, assert "facts that would support any scenario under which Plaintiffs could plausibly be in lawful possession of the subject piece." The government contends that the mere possession of the 1974-D aluminum cent is not enough to divest the government of its ownership and that "no authorization exists — and none is alleged — whereby any Government official could have lawfully allowed Mr. Lawrence to obtain or keep the subject piece that he possessed through advantage of his federal employment with the United States Mint."

Attorney comments

Lawrence's and McConnell's attorney, Armen Vartian, said this March 31: "The Government's position was that nobody can legally own a 1974 Aluminum Cent because Congress never authorized these coins to be issued as money. The Court decided that this position was overly simplistic, and did not preclude Harry Lawrence having legal title to his 1974-D specimen, which Denver Mint officials let him take with him at his retirement along with a group of error coins and an engraved clock with Denver Mint silver coins in place of the hours. My clients look forward to the discovery phase of the case, where undoubtedly the numismatic community will learn a great deal more about the Aluminum Cents."

-Once again, stay tuned folks! -Editor



WHAT'S NEW AT THE U.S. MINT ?

March of Dimes Special Silver Set sells out

For the first time, the U.S. Mint issued both a reverse proof silver dime from Philadelphia and a proof silver dime from West Point. These coins were only available in this special silver coin set commemorating the 75th anniversary of the March of Dimes. The set also included a 2015 March of Dimes Proof Silver Dollar. The set sold for \$61.95. The mint has left open the possibility that more sets may be available in the event that some sets are returned or orders cancelled.



Dollars Still Available

The 2015 March of Dimes Proof and Uncirculated Silver Dollars celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the March of Dimes. Founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on the eve of World War II as the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, the March of Dimes was instrumental in the eradication of polio from the United States. Since then the March of Dimes' mission has been the prevention of birth defects, working for every generation with new research and discoveries to help babies be born healthy and grow up strong.

authorizes to be paid to the March of Dimes to help finance research, education and services aimed at improving the health of women, infants and children.

The obverse design represents the past depicting President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Dr. Jonas Salk, two leaders in the fight against polio. The inscriptions are "LIBERTY," "IN GOD WE TRUST" and "2015."

The reverse design depicts a baby cuddled in the hand of a parent, representing the foundation's dedication to the health of babies. The inscriptions are "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," "\$1," "MARCH OF DIMES" and "E PLURIBUS UNUM."



Order the 2015 March of Dimes Silver Dollars in commemoration of the contribution of the March of Dimes to American history, and also to support their ongoing commitment to the health of babies everywhere. The Proof coin sells for \$51.95 and the Uncirculated coin sells for \$48.95.

U.S. Marshals Service 225th Anniversary 2015 Coin Program

The United States Marshals Service is the nation's oldest federal law enforcement agency, having served our nation since 1789. Ensuring liberty and justice for our infant nation, the U.S. Marshals Service was formed when President George Washington signed the Judiciary Act into law in 1789. With a history woven around our Constitution, the U.S. Marshals Service continues, 225 years later, with the same principles of justice, integrity and service.

The commemorative coins offered are Proof and Uncirculated Silver Dollars, Proof and Uncirculated Clad Half Dollars, and Proof and Uncirculated Five Dollar Gold coins.

Each coin's design was developed around a theme. The silver dollar's theme is the American West. It represents the now legendary role the U.S. Marshals had in the American West. The half-dollar's theme shows how the U.S. Marshals Service is woven into the fabric of American history. It depicts contrasting images of the Old West and modern day Deputy U.S. Marshals. The theme of the Gold Coin is "225 years of sacrifice" representing the more than 250 Marshals who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The Silver Dollars are \$51.95 for the Proof and \$48.95 Uncirculated. The Half Dollars are \$18.95 Proof and \$17.95 Unc. The Five Dollar Gold is currently \$393.30 Proof and \$388.30 Unc.



Clad Half Dollar



Silver Dollar



Five Dollar Gold



For more details and to purchase U.S.
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BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING

America's Founding Fathers 2015 Currency Set

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing proudly presents "America's Founding Fathers 2015 Currency Set." Each historic set features a Series 2013 \$1 note and a Series 2009 \$2 note bearing the portraits of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, respectively. Both currency notes are from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and have matching serial numbers beginning with "2015." This set is attractively packaged in a tri-fold folder, and each note is protected by a clear acid-free polymer sleeve. This exclusive set is limited to 5,000.

Act now and be among the first to own this historic, presidential set. *The America's Founding Fathers 2015 Currency Set* is \$21.95. Bulk pricing is available at \$18.95 for quantities of 50 or more. This product is offered during calendar year 2015 only. To order go to: moneyfactory.gov



BOOKS !

Tinnahs & Seal Skins, Gold Dust & Bingles,

Projecting Alaska's history through its money.

Edited by Dick Hanscom

The history of a country is often reflected in its money. For Alaska, this is especially true.

Alaska natives may not have had what we consider money, but they did have items that represented wealth. The tinnah (large shield-shaped pieces of copper) represented vast quantities of blankets. A tribe's "face" rose and fell upon the acquisition and destruction (!) of tinnahs.

The Russian exploitation is expressed in their use of parchment notes, with no real value. With the sale of Alaska to the United States, it was the U.S.'s turn to neglect Alaska. It was the wild, wild "west" in fisheries and sealing.

With the gold rush, things started to look up for Alaska. Wealth, it seemed, was on every creek. Gold dust and tokens were the medium of exchange because any U.S. currency that happened to make it to the territory did a U-turn back to the lower forty-eight to purchase more goods.

All while this was going on, others were developing other sectors of the economy. Gold drove the economy, but other factors were leading to a more stable population.

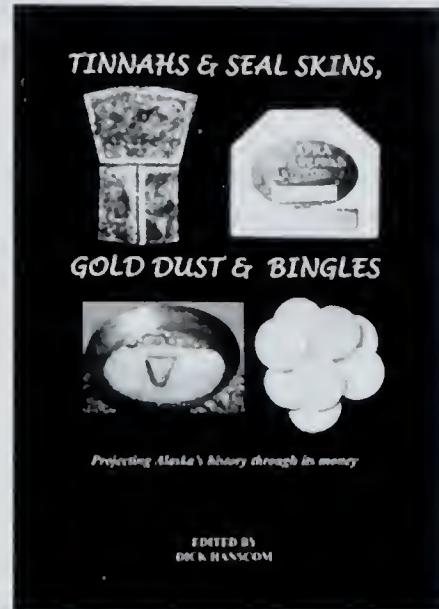
For this anthology, articles have been gathered from many different sources. Some are not numismatic in nature, but they give information about a location or biography that I think enhances collecting enjoyment.

Many articles have appeared in *Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist* over its 37 years. A number have been written by the editor. There are several articles that have been written specifically for this book. Most articles are illustrated with black and white photos.

The book is 396 pages, 9" by 6". The cover is full color with text printed in yellow on black. The paper bound edition is available for immediate shipment for \$29.95 postpaid by media mail, or \$33 via priority mail (U.S. orders only. Please contact us for non-U.S. orders).

Hard bound copies are available on a pre-paid, special order basis for \$70. These orders will be accepted until June 15. Delivery will be made in July. Orders can be sent to:

Alaska Rare Coins / 551-B Second Ave. / Fairbanks, AK 99701 (email: akcoins@mosquitonet.com)



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SHOW CALENDAR

July 25, 2015 – Woodruff

Lakeland Coin and Stamp Club 10th Annual Show at Woodruff Town Hall Community Room, Hwy 47 S, Woodruff, WI. Saturday, Hours: 9am – 2pm. Free Admission. Contact: Dean Marin 715-356-9453

August 1, 2015 – Siren

Fishbowl Wooden Nickel Coin Show at Siren Senior Center, 23943 State Road 35, Siren, WI. Hours 9:00am to 3:00pm. Show Contact: Gary Schauls, 2702 150th Street, Luck, WI 54853-3811. Phone 715-472-2002

August 11-15, 2015 - ANA

ANA World's Fair of Money at Donald Stephens Convention Center, Chicago/Rosemont, IL.

August 23, 2015 – Fond du Lac

Fond du Lac Coin Club annual show at the Holiday Inn, 625 W. Rolling Meadows, Fond du Lac, WI. 60 tables. Hours: 9am – 4pm. Contact Randy Miller, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54903. 920-231-6161 fx920-231-6122

August 29, 2015 - Sheboygan

Sheboygan Coin and Stamp Show at The Laker's Ice Center, 1202 S. Wildwood Av. Sheboygan, WI 53081. 35 tables. Free admission. 9am – 3:30pm. Bourse Chairman: Ed Rautmann, 920-893-5864, P.O.Box 907 Sheboygan, WI 53082. edwinandbev@aol.com

October 4, 2015 – Milwaukee MNS

Milwaukee Numismatic Society's Annual Coin Show at American Serb Memorial Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave. Milwaukee. Hours: 9am-4pm, 75 tables, \$1 admission. Show Chm. Tom Casper 414-425-5444; tcasper57@hotmail.com

October 25, 2015- Green Bay

Nicolet Coin Club's Fall Show at Comfort Suites - Rock Garden, 1951 Bond Street, Green Bay. Free admission, 40 tables. Show Contact Roger Bohn, Ph. 920-819-7294 or boneyard7@yahoo.com.

November 1, 2015 – Madison

Madison Fall Coin Show at Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolan Drive, Madison. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 50 tables. Contact: John Krueger. 211 E. Main St, SunPrairie, WI 53590, 608-834-4114, cchoice2@yahoo.com

November 7, 2015 – Kenosha

Kenosha Coin Club Show. Saturday. 9am – 3pm. Kenosha Union Club, 3030 39th Av. Free Admission and parking. Contact: Jerry Binsfeld 262-657-4653.

December 6, 2015 – Kenosha

Kenosha Coin Club HOLIDAY Show. 9am-3pm. Kenosha Union Club, 3030 39th Av. Free Adm. and park. Cont: Jerry Binsfeld 262-657-4653.

February 21, 2016 - Oshkosh

Wisconsin Coin Expos LLC 33rd Annual Coin Show at Oshkosh Convention Center, 2 N. Main St. Oshkosh. Hours: 9am – 4pm. Free Admission. Contact Randy Miller, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54903. 920-231-6161 fx920-231-6122.

February 28, 2016 – Racine

Racine Numismatic Society Annual Coin Show. 9am – 3pm. Roma Lodge, 7130 Spring St. Racine, WI. Free Parking and admission. Contact: Bill Spencer 262-637-7766

March 20, 2016 - Appleton

Fox Valley Coin Club's 61st Annual Spring Coin Show at Darboy Club, N.9695 County Rd. N., Appleton, WI. 40 tables. Contact James Bayer/Jerry Roberts, PO Box 1981, Appleton, WI 54912 54915. Ph: 920-209-4266.

March 30, April 1-2, 2016 – Milwaukee 55CC – NOW show

South Shore Coin Club's 52nd Annual Coin Show at the Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport (NEW LOCATION!), 6401 S. 13th St., Milwaukee, WI. Wisconsin's largest and only 3-day show! March 30 (12 – 6pm), April 1 (10 -6), April 2 (10 -4). First 200 seniors (62+) Free. Contact Joe B. at 414-327-6156. Website: sccmke.org.

April 10, 2016 - Madison

Madison 84th Anniversary Coin Show at Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolan Drive, Madison. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 50 tables Contact: Tom Galway PO Box 620421, Middleton WI 53562, phone: 608.238-1722, email: tpgalway1@charter.net

April 17, 2016 – Wausau

Wisconsin Valley Coin Club's Show at Howard Johnson's Inn & Conference Center, 2101 N. Mountain Road, Wausau. Hours: 9-4. Show contact: Thad Streeter, 5002 Tanya St., Schofield, WI 54478. Phone: 715-574-2777, e-mail tls0726@hotmail.com.

April 27-30, 2016 – Central States – Schaumburg, IL

CSNS 77th anniversary convention at the Schaumburg Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center, 1551 North Thoreau Drive, Schaumburg, IL 60173. Info: Centralstates.info

Send info to: jkreichenberger@hotmail.com

Numismatists of Wisconsin Inc.

Editor

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